

Appendix C

Examples of Office of Science NEPA Determinations and Notice of Intent to Prepare an EIS

Appendix C

Example EIS Determination Memo

DOE F1325.8
(08-89) (EFG 07-90)

United States Government

Department of Energy

memorandum

DATE: DEC 16 1994
REPLY TO
ATTN OF:
SUBJECT: Energy Research
TO: National Environmental Policy Act Determination for the Proposed Spallation Neutron Source
THRU: Martha A. Krebs, Director, Office of Energy Research
James F. Decker, Deputy Director, Office of Energy Research

Attached is a memorandum for your signature which will start the environmental impact statement process for a spallation neutron source with Oak Ridge being the preferred site, and a schedule for the preparation of the environmental impact statement. The memorandum should be signed as soon as we know that the fiscal year 1996 budget has funds for a spallation neutron source study. With this memorandum, you direct me to start the preparation of the environmental impact statement.

Original signed by
Iran L. Thomas

Iran L. Thomas
Acting Associate Director
for Basic Energy Sciences
Office of Energy Research

Attachment

ER-10:ILThomas:caf:3-3081:12/9/94
ER-63 changes made 12/16/94

C:IRAN:SNSNEPA.MMO/SNSNEPA.TXT

bcc:
ER-1 (3)
ER-60
ER-4
ER-622 FORSTL
ER-8 (Hickey)
ER-13 (Gottschall/Oosterhuis)
ER-14 (Goel)
ER-63

DOE F 1325.10
(5-88)
EFG (07-90)

OFFICIAL FILE COPY

CONCURRENCES

RTG. SYMBOL	ER-10/12/94
INITIALS/SIG.	ILThomas
DATE	12/9/94
RTG. SYMBOL	ER-13
INITIALS/SIG.	Gott/Ooste
DATE	12/10/94
RTG. SYMBOL	ER-14
INITIALS/SIG.	SGoel
DATE	12/11/94
RTG. SYMBOL	ER-63
INITIALS/SIG.	CHickey
DATE	12/13/94
RTG. SYMBOL	ER-60
INITIALS/SIG.	DMayhew
DATE	12/15/94
RTG. SYMBOL	ER-4
INITIALS/SIG.	JClark
DATE	12/16/94
RTG. SYMBOL	ER-2
INITIALS/SIG.	JDecker
DATE	12/16/94
RTG. SYMBOL	ER-1
INITIALS/SIG.	MKrebs
DATE	12/16/94

Appendix C

Example EIS Determination Memo

SUMMARY OF EVENTS RELATED TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (EIS) FOR THE PROPOSED SPALLATION NEUTRON SOURCE

The Secretary's National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Policy Statement of June 1994 established a Department goal to reduce the median process time for EIS preparation to 15 months. The 15 months would encompass the elapsed time from issuance of the Notice of Intent through the publication of the final EIS. The NEPA process must be completed prior to initiation of KD #2, Detailed Design.

Other related events are listed below.

<u>EVENT</u>	<u>DISCUSSION</u>
NEPA Determination (December 1994)	ER-1 makes determination to prepare an EIS under the DOE NEPA regulations (10 CFR 1021).
ER/BES Begins Conceptual Design (FY 1995)	ER would propose reprogramming from the Advanced Neutron Source (FY 1995) budget to provide start-up funds for conceptual design work.
BES Initiates 4700.1 Process	BES initiates the milestones under DOE Order 4700.1 to obtain KD #0; project planning and NEPA schedule are integrated.
BES Appoints a NEPA Document Manager and Designs EIS Process	BES conducts an "internal scoping" process within DOE to design the EIS process, strategy, and timing and to consider the scope and content of the EIS in terms of environmental issues, alternatives, and the public scoping process. DOE "stakeholders" are included: ER, EH, GC, OR, ORNL, and other field and laboratory personnel, as appropriate.
DOE Issues Notice of Intent to Prepare EIS	BES coordinates the preparation of an NOI that announces the intent to prepare an EIS and that initiates the scoping process (FY 1995). If conceptual design information is required to support the NOI, either the NOI should be delayed, or an Advance NOI could be issued to take public comment, but not to initiate the formal scoping meeting process.

Appendix C

Example EIS Determination Memo

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DOE Conducts Formal
Public Scoping Process

Formal Public Scoping/Information Meetings are held to solicit input from the public on the scope and content of the EIS. Meetings should be held at the preferred site, the reasonable alternatives sites, and perhaps in Washington, DC.

BES Solicits Contractor
to Prepare EIS
(FY 1995)

BES pursues finding a contractor to participate in scoping, prepare the EIS Implementation Plan, and write the EIS.

EIS Contractor Drafts
EIS IP for BES

The EIS Implementation Plan (IP) is the "Project Plan" for the "design and construction" of the EIS. It will discuss: the scope and content of the EIS and the issues to be analyzed (including alternatives); the EIS schedule; the results of public scoping; and the public comments that will and will not be analyzed. The EIS IP will be approved by ER-1, after comment from EH and GC.

DOE Prepares Draft EIS
and Issues for Public
Comment

Contractor prepares preliminary draft EIS for DOE review; DOE reviews and approves DEIS and issues for public comment (45-90 days). Notice of Availability issued by U.S. EPA.

DOE Conducts Public
Hearings on DEIS

DOE conducts formal public comment meetings on the Draft EIS during the period of public availability.

DOE Prepares Final EIS

DOE prepares the Final EIS based on the written and oral comments received, and includes a formal written comment-response discussion on each comment received.

DOE Issues Final EIS

DOE publishes final EIS, files with U.S. EPA for issuance of Notice of Availability, distributes to the public.

DOE Issues Record of
Decision (ROD)

ER prepares ROD and seeks review and concurrence from EH and GC. ROD is signed by ER-1 and published for 30 days in Federal Register.

BES Seeks KD #2

Detailed design may proceed after completion of the NEPA process.

Appendix C

Example EIS Determination Memo

DOE F1325.8
(06-89) (EFG 07-90)

United States Government

Department of Energy

memorandum

DATE: FEB 06 1995

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: Energy Research

SUBJECT: National Environmental Policy Act Determination for the Proposed Spallation Neutron Source

TO: Iran Thomas, Acting Associate Director, Office of Basic Energy Sciences

In recognition of the needs of the Department and the Nation for neutron beams for research, the Department proposes to begin the development of a new high-energy linear accelerator facility, the Spallation Neutron Source, that would serve as a cornerstone for advanced research in neutron scattering into the next century. The proposed Spallation Neutron Source would satisfy many of the most important needs of the United States for pulsed neutron beams for experiments in physics, chemistry, and biology. In order to take advantage of the experience gained in the development of the Advanced Neutron Source Conceptual Design, and the availability of highly trained and experienced scientific and technical staff, the Department's preferred location for the proposed project would be the Oak Ridge National Laboratory.

Even though the development of the proposed Spallation Neutron Source is not yet officially approved or funded, it is appropriate (as per 40 CFR 1508.23) to begin the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review process in order to integrate the NEPA process with project planning and to insure that project planning and decisions reflect environmental values. Since the proposed facility is a high-energy accelerator that would be a Major System Acquisition level project, I have determined that the proposal fits the class of actions normally requiring preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) under Appendix D to Subpart D of 10 CFR 1021. The Office of Basic Energy Sciences should initiate this EIS that should evaluate the potential environmental consequences of the proposal to site, construct, and operate the facility at Oak Ridge, as well as evaluate reasonable alternatives to the proposal.

Original signed by

Martha A. Krebs
Director
Office of Energy Research

Attachment:
Summary of Events

cc:
T. O'Toole, Environment, Safety and Health
J. LaGrone, Oak Ridge Operations Office

Internet address:

<http://www.nawcwps.navy.mil/~pmeis>.

Navy will set up several information stations at these scoping meetings; each information station will be staffed by a Navy representative who will be available to answer questions from meeting attendees. In addition, Navy representatives will give a brief presentation about current NAWCWPNS activities on the Point Mugu Sea Range followed by a description of the proposed action and alternatives (including the No-Action alternative). Members of the public may offer verbal or written comments at the scoping meetings, or subsequent to the meetings by mail, by facsimile, or by toll-free telephone at (888) 217-9045. Verbal comments will be limited to three minutes per individual. All comments, whether verbal or written, will receive the same attention and consideration during EIS/OEIS preparation.

Navy's official repository is located at the Oxnard Public Library, Reference Desk, 251 South "A" Street, Oxnard, CA 93030, (805) 385-7507.

ADDRESSES: Navy will accept comments at the address listed below. To ensure that Navy has sufficient time to consider public input during preparation of the Draft EIS/OEIS, scoping comments should be submitted to the following address by September 13, 1997: Ms. Cora Fields, Point Mugu Sea Range EIS, c/o Code 832000E, 521 Ninth Street, Point Mugu, CA 93042-5001, telephone (805) 989-0128, FAX (805) 989-0143; or, Ms. Gina Smith, telephone (805) 989-0141, FAX (805) 989-0143. Individuals or groups with special needs, such as accessibility, foreign language translation, assistance for the blind or hearing impaired, should contact Ms. Fields or Ms. Smith at least one week before the scoping meeting.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Additional information concerning this notice may be obtained by contacting Ms. Fields or Ms. Smith.

Dated: July 21, 1997.

M.D. Sutton,

LCDR, JAGC, USN, Federal Register Liaison Officer.

[FR Doc. 97-19615 Filed 7-24-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3810-FF-M

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

[CFDA 84.037]

Office of Postsecondary Education; Availability of the Amendments to the National Direct Student Loan and Federal Perkins Loan Programs Directory of Designated Low-Income Schools for Teacher Cancellation Benefits for the 1996-97 School Year

AGENCY: Department of Education.

ACTION: Notice of availability of the amendments to the 1996-97 National Direct Student Loan and Federal Perkins Loan Programs Directory of Designated Low-Income Schools.

SUMMARY: Institutions and borrowers participating in the Federal Perkins Loan and National Direct Student Loan Programs and other interested persons are advised that they may obtain information regarding the amendments to the National Direct Student Loan and Federal Perkins Loan Programs Directory of Designated Low-Income Schools for Teacher Cancellation Benefits for the 1996-97 School Year (Directory). The amendments identify changes in the list of schools that qualify borrowers for teacher cancellation benefits under each of the loan programs.

DATES: The amendments to the Directory are currently available.

ADDRESSES: Information concerning specific schools listed in the amendments to the Directory may be obtained from Systems Administration Branch, Campus-Based Programs System Division, Office of Postsecondary Education, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, S.W., (Room 4051, ROB-3), Washington, DC, 20202-5453, Telephone (202) 708-6726.

Information concerning deferment and/or cancellation of a National Direct Student Loan or Federal Perkins Loan may be obtained from Gail McLarnon or Sylvia Ross, Campus-Based Loan Programs Section, Loans Branch, Policy Development Division, Office of Postsecondary Education, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue SW., (Room 3045, ROB-3), Washington, DC, 20202-5453, Telephone (202) 708-8242. Individuals who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339 between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m., Eastern time, Monday through Friday.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: The amendments to the Directory are available at (1) each institution of higher

education participating in the Federal Perkins Loan Program, (2) each of the fifty-seven (57) State and Territory Departments of Education, (3) each of the major Federal Perkins Loan billing services, and (4) the U.S. Department of Education.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Secretary of Education published a notice in the **Federal Register** on January 9, 1997, (62 FR 1376) that the Directory was available. The Secretary has revised the Directory due to the opening and closing of schools, school name changes, and the need for other corrections. These revisions are listed in the amendments to the Directory.

The procedures for selecting the schools that qualify borrowers for cancellation benefits are described in the Federal Perkins Loan Program regulations at 34 CFR 674.53 and 674.54. The Secretary has determined that for the 1996-97 academic year full-time teaching in the schools set forth in the Directory and the amendments to the Directory qualifies a borrower for cancellation benefits.

The Secretary is providing the amendments to the Directory to each institution participating in the Federal Perkins Loan Program. Borrowers and other interested parties may check with their lending institutions, the appropriate State or Territory Department of Education, regional offices of the Department of Education, or the Office of Postsecondary Education of the Department of Education concerning the identity of qualifying schools for the 1996-97 academic year.

The Office of Postsecondary Education retains, on a permanent basis, copies of all published amendments and Directories.

Dated: July 16, 1997.

David A. Longanecker,

Assistant Secretary for Postsecondary Education.

[FR Doc. 97-19665 Filed 7-24-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4000-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Environmental Impact Statement for Siting, Construction, and Operation of the National Spallation Neutron Source

AGENCY: Department of Energy.

ACTION: Notice of Intent (NOI).

SUMMARY: The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) announces its intent to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS), pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act

(NEPA), on the siting, construction, and operation of the proposed National Spallation Neutron Source (NSNS). The proposed NSNS facility would consist of a proton accelerator system; a spallation target; and appropriate experimental areas, laboratories, offices, and support facilities to allow ongoing and expanded programs of neutron research. The proposed site for the NSNS is the DOE-owned Oak Ridge National Laboratory in Oak Ridge, Tennessee. The alternative sites under consideration are three other DOE-owned laboratories: Argonne National Laboratory, Argonne, Illinois; Los Alamos National Laboratory, Los Alamos, New Mexico; and Brookhaven National Laboratory, Upton, New York. DOE invites the public, organizations, and agencies to present oral or written comments concerning: (1) The scope of the EIS, (2) the issues the EIS should address, and (3) the alternatives the EIS should analyze.

DATES: The public scoping period begins with publication of this NOI and continues until September 12, 1997. Written comments submitted by mail should be postmarked by that date to ensure consideration. Comments mailed after that date will be considered to the extent practicable.

DOE will conduct public scoping meetings to assist in defining the appropriate scope of the EIS and to identify significant environmental issues to be addressed. These meetings will be held at the following times and locations:

August 11, 1997, American Museum of Science and Energy, 300 South Tulane Avenue, Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37830; Times: 1:30–4:30 p.m. and 6:30–9:30 p.m.

August 14, 1997, Argonne National Laboratory, Building 401—Advanced Photon Source, Room A1100, 9700 Cass Avenue, Argonne, Illinois 60439; Times: 1:30–4:30 p.m. and 6:30–9:30 p.m.

August 19, 1997, Los Alamos Area Office, Main Conference Room (Room 100), 528 35th Street, Los Alamos, New Mexico 87544; Times: 1:30–4:30 p.m. and 6:30–9:30 p.m.

September 4, 1997, Brookhaven National Laboratory, Berkner Hall (Bldg. 488), Brookhaven Avenue, Upton, New York 11973; Times: 1:30–4:30 p.m. and 6:30–9:30 p.m.

ADDRESSES: Please direct comments or suggestions on the scope of the EIS, requests to speak at the public scoping meetings, requests for meeting special needs to enable participation at scoping meetings (e.g., interpreter for the hearing-impaired) and questions

concerning the project to: David Wilfert, U.S. Department of Energy, Oak Ridge Operations Office, 200 Administration Road, 146/FEDC, Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37831, telephone: (800) 927-9964, facsimile: (423) 576-4542, or e-mail NSNSEIS@ornl.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For general information associated with the research aspects of the NSNS, please contact: Iran Thomas, Deputy Associate Director, Office of Basic Energy Research, Office of Energy Research, U.S. Department of Energy, ER-10, Germantown, MD 20874, telephone: (301) 903-3427.

For general information on the DOE NEPA process, please contact: Carol M. Borgstrom, Director, Office of NEPA Policy and Assistance, EH-42, U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20585-0119, telephone: (202) 586-4600 or (800) 472-2756.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Over the past 40 years, the use of neutrons for research purposes, a use pioneered in the United States, has played a valuable role in advancements in the fields of fundamental physical and biological sciences, material technology, and medicine. However, in the last two decades, the United States has fallen behind the European scientific community in the availability of state-of-the-art neutron sources and instrumentation because of the age of its existing facilities. Existing United States reactor-based neutron sources were built in the 1960s, and existing accelerator-based sources were built in the early 1980s. These facilities have had minimal upgrading and modernization, and are not well suited for the specific areas of research to which scientific investigation has evolved. In 1994, a proposal to build a new reactor-based neutron source, the Advanced Neutron Source (ANS), was not supported by Congress because of high costs (approximately \$3 billion) and potential nuclear proliferation issues. Now, DOE is proposing to construct and operate the NSNS Project to provide the United States with a modern accelerator-based neutron source and neutron science research facility at a cost of approximately \$1 billion to meet current and future research needs.

The proposed NSNS would produce short pulses of neutrons for use in materials research. This would be accomplished through the “spallation” process wherein (1) subatomic particles, called protons, are accelerated to very

high energies; (2) the high energy protons are “bunched” into a compact group; (3) the bunched, high energy protons are directed onto a target made of a high atomic number material, in this case mercury; and (4) the collision of the protons with the target produces a pulse of neutrons from the target material. Once the spallation process is completed and the neutron pulse is produced, the neutrons would be slowed to useful energy levels, and would be guided onto samples of the materials being studied. The interactions of the neutrons and the specimens would be measured and analyzed, thus revealing information on the structure, properties, and behavior of the test material.

Purpose and Need for the NSNS

The purpose of the proposed NSNS Project is to provide the United States with its only modern, high performance pulsed neutron research facility. Since the 1970s, numerous assessments have firmly established the need for new neutron sources and instrumentation in the United States. The proposed facility would allow for advanced research in the United States in the physical and biological sciences, for industrial application, and medical research. Current facilities are inadequate to meet the existing demand for neutron research and, even if upgraded, would not be able to satisfy the growing future demand.

The need for new neutron sources has been recognized by national panels investigating the status of neutron sources and science in the United States since a National Academy of Sciences (NAS) study in 1984. After reviewing all major domestic facilities for materials research, a NAS panel recommended:

1. Construction of a steady-state, high-flux neutron source; and
2. Development of a plan leading to the construction of a major pulsed spallation neutron source.

These recommendations were reaffirmed in 1993 by DOE's Basic Energy Science Advisory Committee (BESAC) Panel on “Neutron Sources for America's Future.” Although a reactor-based Advanced Neutron Source (ANS) Project was proposed in each of fiscal years 1994 and 1995, the proposal was not continued in the fiscal year 1996 budget process, primarily due to the high cost (approximately \$3 billion) of the total project. As a result, emphasis shifted to the lower cost proposed accelerator-based NSNS facility. According to the most recent BESAC recommendations (1996), there is an urgent need to build a short pulsed spallation source in the 1 MW power

range, dedicated to neutron scattering, with sufficient design flexibility to permit future modification for operation at higher power. The EIS will analyze the potential environmental impacts associated with the construction and operation of the facility in its fully upgraded condition (4–5 MW).

Proposed Action and Alternatives

The proposed NSNS facility would consist of a proton accelerator system, a spallation source to produce neutron pulses, and appropriate experimental areas, laboratories, offices, and support facilities to allow ongoing and expanded programs of neutron research. The NSNS Project would provide key capabilities to support multiple elements of DOE strategic planning, such as:

- Constructing leading-edge facilities for use by industries, universities, and government laboratories;
- Providing new insights into the nature of matter and energy;
- Maintaining core competencies and partnering with the private sector and other agencies; and
- Accelerating the use of emerging technologies.

DOE proposes to construct and operate the NSNS at Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) in Oak Ridge, Tennessee. Locating the NSNS at ORNL would offer access to existing facilities which could support the proposed NSNS facility and would take advantage of experienced staff at those facilities, including researchers with expertise in the appropriate scientific disciplines. Supporting facilities, including utilities, waste management and storage facilities, also exist at ORNL.

DOE will evaluate reasonable alternative locations, the no-action alternative, and technology alternatives. In addition to ORNL, the proposed site of the NSNS, the EIS will also analyze the potential environmental impacts associated with constructing and operation of the NSNS at three other reasonable sites: Argonne National Laboratory (ANL), Argonne, Illinois; Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL), Los Alamos, New Mexico; and Brookhaven National Laboratory (BNL), Upton, New York. DOE identified these sites as reasonable through the application of four screening criteria to a total of thirty-nine candidate sites. The four criteria were: (1) The availability of 110 acres of land; (2) the existence of a one mile buffer zone separating the proposed NSNS from populated areas; (3) the ready availability of 50 to 60 MW of electric power; and (4) existence of the infrastructure and trained personnel associated with an ongoing neutron

science program. Technology alternatives include reactor-based neutron sources and variations in the accelerator-based system. The no action alternative would be not to build or operate the NSNS.

Conceptual Design

Neutrons are one of two major particles (protons being the other) comprising the nucleus of atoms, and because they have no electric charge, they can penetrate deeply into the molecules of test materials to give scientists new insights into the structure and properties of the material. The NSNS facility would extract neutrons from the nuclei of "target" material so they can be subsequently used for research on various specimens.

A process known as "spallation" is applied to extract neutrons from target nuclei. In the spallation process, target nuclei containing large numbers of neutrons (typically heavy metals such as lead, mercury, tungsten, etc.) are struck with high energy (fast moving) particles to eject some of the contained neutrons. A large part of the NSNS facility is the accelerator system needed to produce and deliver the high energy particles (in this case protons) onto the target material. The accelerator system is comprised of:

1. An ion source to electrically charge hydrogen atoms (a hydrogen atom is comprised of a single proton in the nucleus and one orbiting electron) so they can be accelerated using magnetic fields and electromagnetic energy. This part of the facility is relatively small, i.e., only a few meters in length.

2. A Linear Accelerator (linac), which is a series of energy-inducing devices used to accelerate (increase energy level) the protons (hydrogen ions) and form a beam of high energy particles. The linac structure is approximately 550 meters (about $\frac{1}{3}$ mile) long.

3. A storage ring to accumulate large numbers of the high energy protons, and then release that grouping of protons in a single pulse onto the target. The storage ring is a rectangular-shaped structure approximately 80 meters across.

The accelerator system is operated so that proton pulses from the storage ring are repeatedly directed onto the target at a repetition rate of 6 Hz (60 times per second). The initial design of the NSNS would involve approximately 1 MW of power (equivalent to approximately 1,340 horsepower) being deposited onto the target from this series of proton pulses. As time and technology permits, the NSNS may undergo a series of upgrades in future years to raise the beam power on the target.

The target of the proton pulse power would be liquid mercury circulated in a stainless steel vessel. Mercury, as a target material, provides good conversion of protons to released neutrons and, as a liquid, it can be continuously circulated in a closed system to absorb the impact of the proton pulses, release pulses of neutrons, and transport impact energy (heat) to remote cooling systems. Approximately 1 cubic meter of mercury would be used in the NSNS, a volume that would be expected to last for the facility's design life of 40 years.

Because the neutrons released by the spallation process are moving very fast, they must be moderated (slowed) to levels suitable for research needs. Neutron moderation is achieved by successive collisions of the fast neutrons with cooler nuclei. In the NSNS, two thermal moderators and two cryogenic moderators would be positioned around the mercury target to slow the neutrons in each pulse. First, the thermal moderators would use water to slow the neutrons to speeds associated with room temperatures (approximately 2200 meters per second). Concurrently, cryogenic moderators would use liquid hydrogen to slow the neutrons to speeds associated with very low temperatures (approximately 500 meters per second). Beam guides, 18 in all, would direct the slowed neutrons to experiment stations where the scientific research is conducted. The building housing the target, moderators, beam guides, and research instruments would be approximately 50 by 75 meters in size.

The NSNS facility would be appropriately integrated into the site infrastructure of the host laboratory, including roadways, utilities, and monitoring systems. The laboratory would provide security and fire protection. The entire facility would require approximately 110 acres of cleared land, and ready access to and availability of 50–60 MW of electric power. It would have a design lifetime of 40 years, but the design would not preclude lifetime extensions beyond 40 years. Systems and structures would be designed to facilitate eventual decontamination and removal.

Design of the NSNS is projected to span four years (FY 1999–2002), and construction nearly five years (FY 2000–2004). Facility commissioning would occur in FY 2003–2004, with FY 2005 being the first full year of operation. Project staffing is estimated to rise from approximately 30 to approximately 90 during conceptual design (FY 1996–1998); rise from approximately 100 to a peak of approximately 1200 and decline to approximately 225 during design/

construction (FY 1999–2004); and hold at approximately 225 for operation (FY 2004 and beyond). The estimated total project cost from conceptual design through commissioning is approximately \$1 billion.

Preliminary Environmental Analysis

DOE plans to analyze potential impacts of the NSNS project on the following parameters. This list is neither intended to be all-inclusive, nor is it a predetermination of potential impacts. Additions to or deletions from this list may occur as a result of the scoping process.

- Earth Resources: physiography, topography, geology, and soil characteristics.
- Land Use: plans, policies and controls.
- Water Resources: surface and groundwater hydrology, use, and quality.
- Air Quality: Meteorological basis, ambient background, pollutant sources, and potential degradation.
- Radiation Background: Cosmic, rock, soil, water, and air.
- Hazardous Materials: Handling, storage, and use; waste management both near- and long-term.
- Noise: Ambient, sources, and sensitive receptors.
- Ecological Resources: Aquatic, terrestrial, economically/recreationally important species, threatened and endangered species.
- Socioeconomics: Demography, economic base, labor pool, housing, transportation, utilities, public services/facilities, education, recreation, and cultural resources.
- Historical and Archaeological Resources: Paleontological and archaeological sites, Native American resources, historic and prehistoric sites.
- Scenic and Visual Resources.
- Wetlands: Protection and remediation.
- Health and Safety: Public and occupational impacts from routine operation and credible accident scenarios.
- Natural Disasters: Floods, tornadoes, and seismic events.
- Unavoidable Adverse Impacts.
- Natural and Depletable Resources: Requirements and conservation potential.
- Environmental Justice: Disproportionately high and adverse impacts to minority and low income populations.

The preliminary identification of reasonable alternatives and environmental issues presented in this NOI is not meant to be exhaustive or final. Alternatives other than those

presented in this document may warrant examination, and new issues may be identified for evaluation.

Relevant issues related to decommissioning of the NSNS will be addressed to the extent possible. Additional NEPA review may be necessary in the future when decommissioning plans are proposed.

Scoping Meetings

The purpose of this NOI is to encourage early public involvement in the EIS process and to solicit public comments on the proposed scope and content of the EIS. DOE plans to hold formal public scoping meetings in the vicinity of the proposed and alternative sites to solicit both oral and written comments from interested parties.

DOE will designate a presiding officer for the scoping meetings. The scoping meetings will not be conducted as evidentiary hearings, and there will be no questioning of the commentators. However, the presiding officer may ask for clarification of statements to ensure that DOE fully understands the comments and suggestions. The presiding officer will establish the order of speakers. At the opening of each meeting, the presiding officer will announce any additional procedures necessary for the conduct of the meetings. To ensure that all persons wishing to make a presentation are given the opportunity, a five-minute limit may be enforced for each speaker, with the exception of public officials and representatives of groups who will be allotted ten minutes each. Comment cards will also be available for those who would prefer to submit their comments in written form.

DOE will make transcripts of the scoping meetings and other environmental and project-related materials available for public review in the following reading rooms:

1. U.S. Department of Energy, Freedom of Information Public Reading Room, Forrestal Building, Room 1E-190, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20585, Telephone: (202) 586-3142
2. U.S. Department of Energy Reading Room, Oak Ridge Operations Office, 200 Administration Road, Room G-217, Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37831, Telephone: (423) 241-4780
3. Argonne National Laboratory, Documents Department, University Library, Third Floor Center, University of Illinois at Chicago, 801 South Morgan Street, Chicago, Illinois 60439, Telephone: (312) 996-2738
4. BNL Research Library, Bldg. 477A Brookhaven Ave., Upton, NY 11973, Telephone: (516) 344-3483

5. Longwood Public Library, 800 Middle Country Rd., Middle Island, NY 11953, Telephone: (516) 924-6400
6. Mastics-Moriches-Shirley Community Library, 301 William Floyd Parkway, Shirley, NY 11967, Telephone: (516) 399-1511
7. Los Alamos National Laboratory Public Outreach and Reading Room, Los Alamos, New Mexico 87544, Telephone: (505) 665-2127

NEPA Process

The EIS for the proposed facility will be prepared according to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, the Council on Environmental Quality's Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of NEPA (40 CFR parts 1500–1508) and DOE's NEPA Regulations (10 CFR part 1021).

The draft EIS is scheduled to be published by March 1998. A 45-day comment period on the draft EIS is planned, and public hearings to receive comments will be held approximately one month after distribution of the draft EIS. Availability of the draft EIS, the dates of the public comment period, and information about the public hearings will be announced in the **Federal Register** and in the local news media when the draft EIS is distributed.

The final EIS, which will incorporate public comments received on the draft EIS, is expected in July 1998. No sooner than 30 days after a notice of availability of the final EIS is published in the **Federal Register**, DOE will issue its Record of Decision and publish it in the **Federal Register**.

Signed in Washington, DC this 21st day of July, 1997.

Peter N. Brush,

*Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary,
Environment, Safety and Health.*

[FR Doc. 97-19616 Filed 7-24-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6450-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Project No. 11175-002 Minnesota]

Crown Hydro Company; Notice Modifying and Establishing a Restricted Service List for Comments on a Programmatic Agreement for Managing Properties Included in or Eligible for Inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places

July 21, 1997.

On April 20, 1997, the Commission issued a notice for Project No. 10455 proposing to establish a restricted

Issued in Washington, DC on November 18, 1997.

Anthony J. Como,

Manager, Electric Power Regulation, Office of Coal and Power Im/Ex, Office of Coal and Power Systems, Office of Fossil Energy.

[FR Doc. 97-30795 Filed 11-21-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6450-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Notice of Wetland Involvement; for Construction of a Consolidated Waste Processing Facility at the Miamisburg Environmental Management Project (MEMP)

AGENCY: Department of Energy (DOE), Miamisburg Environmental Management Project.

ACTION: Notice of wetland involvement.

SUMMARY: This is to give notice of DOE's proposal to construct a consolidated waste processing facility at the Miamisburg Environmental Management Project, located approximately ten (10) miles southwest of Dayton, Ohio. The proposed activity would involve a small portion of an isolated, man-made wetland in Montgomery County, Ohio. In accordance with 10 CFR 1022, DOE will prepare a Wetlands Assessment and conduct the proposed action in such a manner to avoid or minimize potential harm to or within the affected wetland area.

DATES: Written comments must be received by the DOE at the following address on or before December 9, 1997.

ADDRESSES: For further information on this proposed action, including a site map and/or a copy of the Wetlands Assessment, contact: Mr. James O. Johnson, SM/PP Hill Performance/Technical Monitor, U.S. Department of Energy, Miamisburg Environmental Management Project Office, P.O. Box 66, Miamisburg, OH 45343-0066. Phone: (937) 865-5234; Facsimile: (937) 865-4489.

FOR FURTHER FURTHER INFORMATION

CONTACT: For further information on general DOE wetland and floodplain environmental review requirements, contact: Ms. Carol M. Borgstrom, Director, Office of NEPA Policy and Assistance, EH-42, U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20585. Phone: (202) 586-4600 or 1-800-472-2756.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The proposed activity would directly support the ongoing environmental remediation program at the Mound Plant. Construction and operation of the temporary, pre-fabricated consolidated

waste processing facility would accomplish volume-reduction, metal recovery and waste packaging goals established for the site. Included in the construction of the facility are equipment and laydown pads and a roadway. Approximately 20% of the 50' x 60' laydown pad would encroach upon an isolated, man-made wetland with an overall areal extent of 0.04 acres. Construction of the laydown pad would, in turn, impact approximately one-third (1/3) of the subject wetland; the remaining two-thirds (2/3) of the wetland would not be impacted. The wetland was one of several delineated in the Mound Plant Habitat map (Mound Plant Ecological Characterization Report, March 1994); the map was prepared in accordance with the 1987 Corps of Engineers Wetlands Delineation Manual and has the concurrence of the Corps. The proposed action would result in long-term and direct impacts to approximately one-third of the 0.04 acre man-made wetland, as a result of back-filling with gravel before construction of the laydown pad. Best management practices would be utilized to minimize the amount of wetland area impacted. All reasonable efforts would be taken to backfill the smallest area of wetland possible. Staging and transport of equipment and supplies in the wetland would be avoided. Erosion controls such as silt fences would be used, if needed, to minimize sediment deposition into the wetland. Culverts would also be used, if necessary, to ensure continued overland flow to the wetland.

Issuance: Issued in Miamisburg, Ohio on November 18, 1997.

Susan L. Smiley,

NEPA Compliance Officer, Ohio Field Office.

[FR Doc. 97-30794 Filed 11-21-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6450-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Environmental Impact Statement for the High Flux Beam Reactor Transition Project at the Brookhaven National Laboratory, Upton, NY

AGENCY: Department of Energy.

ACTION: Notice of intent (NOI).

SUMMARY: The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) announces its intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), for the High Flux Beam Reactor (HFBR) at the Brookhaven National Laboratory (BNL) in Upton, New York. The EIS will evaluate the range of reasonable alternatives regarding the

future of the reactor, as required by NEPA, including: (1) No action (maintaining HFBR in a shutdown and defueled condition); (2) resume operation at a power level of 30 megawatt (MW) or up to 60 MW; (3) resume operation and enhance the facility; and (4) permanent shutdown with eventual decontamination and decommissioning (D&D). DOE invites individuals, organizations, and agencies to present oral and/or written comments concerning the scope of the EIS, including the environmental issues and alternatives the EIS should analyze.

DATES: The public scoping begins with publication of this NOI in the **Federal Register** and continues until January 23, 1998. Written comments submitted by mail should be postmarked by that date to ensure consideration. Comments mailed after that date will be considered to the extent practicable.

DOE will conduct public scoping meetings to assist it in defining the appropriate scope of the EIS, including the significant environmental issues to be addressed. DOE plans to hold scoping meetings in the vicinity of BNL in December 1997 and January 1998. The December meeting will be held at the following date, time and location:

December 10, 1997, Mastic Beach Property Owners Association, 31 Neighborhood Road, Mastic Beach, New York 11951; Time: 4:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m.

Locations of additional scoping meetings to be held in January will be announced through the local media as soon as possible, but at least 15 days prior to the date of the meetings.

ADDRESSES: Please direct comments or suggestions on the scope of the EIS, requests to speak at the public scoping meetings, requests for special arrangements to enable participation at scoping meetings (e.g., interpreter for the hearing-impaired) and questions concerning the project to: Michael Holland, Brookhaven Group, U.S. Department of Energy, 53 Bell Avenue, Bldg. 464, P.O. Box 5000, Upton, NY 11973-5000, (516) 344-3552, telefax (516) 344-1377, or by electronic mail to mholland@bnl.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For general information associated with the research aspects of the HFBR, please contact: Iran Thomas, Deputy Associate Director, Office of Basic Energy Sciences, Office of Energy Research, U.S. Department of Energy, ER-10, Germantown, MD 20874, telephone: (301) 903-3427.

For technical information associated with reactor operation, please contact: Robert Lange, Associate Director, Office of Facilities, Office of Nuclear Energy,

U.S. Department of Energy, NE-40, 19907 Germantown Rd., Germantown, MD 20874, telephone: (301) 903-2915.

For general information on the DOE NEPA process, please contact: Carol M. Borgstrom, Director, Office of NEPA Policy and Assistance, EH-42, U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20585-0119, telephone: (202) 586-4600 or leave a message on (800) 472-2756.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The Brookhaven National Laboratory was established in 1947 as a multi-disciplinary scientific research center. It is located close to the geographic center of Suffolk County, Long Island, about 56 miles (91 kilometers) east of New York City. The Laboratory site consists of 8.2 square miles (21.3 square kilometers, 2,130 hectares) with most principal facilities located near the center. The Laboratory carries out basic and applied research in the following areas: High-energy and nuclear physics; solid state physics; materials sciences and chemical sciences; nuclear medicine; biomedical and environmental sciences; and selected energy technologies.

The HFBR, which is centrally located within the BNL site (about 1 mile from the eastern site boundary and 1.5 miles from the southern boundary), was commissioned in 1965 as a scientific facility dedicated to neutron scattering research and other research programs in solid state physics, nuclear physics, materials technology, structural biology, medicine and chemistry. Neutron scattering techniques are used to study the structure and properties of materials. The HFBR has provided about two-thirds of the Department's experimental capability at reactors for neutron scattering.

The HFBR uses heavy water (deuterium) for cooling and a highly enriched uranium core to produce beams of thermal neutrons that are guided to experimental areas by nine horizontal aluminum alloy tubes called "beam tubes." In addition, there are seven vertical tubes for irradiating research samples in the reactor. The entire reactor and its control room are enclosed within a confinement dome. This reactor does not produce electric power. The HFBR staff presently consists of about 110 scientists, engineers, technicians, and administrative personnel. The HFBR scientific user community numbers about 300 researchers, including several from Japan and Europe.

In some research areas the HFBR is the best facility in the United States. For example, the facility's Small Angle Neutron Scattering (SANS) capability is regarded as a particularly useful technique by structural biologists, who represent a rapidly growing user community for neutron scattering. The HFBR SANS offers unique capabilities for the study of biological samples and is the best resource in the United States for this type of work. In addition, the HFBR's Single Crystal Neutron Diffraction equipment complements x-ray techniques in determining the structure of complex organic molecules because of its ability to locate hydrogen atoms. The HFBR facility has also been used for radioisotope production, neutron activation analysis, and material irradiation.

The reactor was originally designed for operation at a power level of 40 megawatts (MW). An equipment upgrade in 1982 allowed operation at 60 MW, which greatly enhanced the reactor's scientific capability. Beginning in 1991, the operating power of the reactor was limited to 30 MW until additional analysis could be performed to address safety concerns associated with a hypothetical loss of reactor coolant accident while operating at 60 MW. Subsequent analyses, currently under review as part of an on-going Safety Analysis Report revision program, indicate that the HFBR could be safely operated at 60 MW. Scientific users have recommended operating the reactor at 60 MW, and that the Department upgrade and modernize the scientific instrumentation and other features such as the beam tubes.

Current Status of HFBR

On December 21, 1996, the HFBR was shut down for refueling and maintenance, a routine activity which normally occurs almost every month. Before the reactor returned to scheduled scientific operations, however, monitoring indicated that a plume of tritiated water was contaminating the groundwater in excess of drinking water standards south and down gradient of the reactor. DOE, in cooperation with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), New York State Department of Conservation (NYSDEC), and Suffolk County Department of Health Services (SCDHS), immediately initiated activities to identify and eliminate the source of the tritium plume. These activities, now collectively called the Tritium Remediation Project, continue as part of the Department's commitment to remediate the contaminated groundwater.

Data collection and analysis identified the HFBR spent fuel pool as the likely source of the tritium plume. In May 1997, a short-term removal action, in the form of a groundwater extraction system, was undertaken to ensure that tritium contaminated groundwater in excess of drinking water standards does not leave the BNL site boundary.

The short-term removal action has been incorporated into the site's cleanup program in accordance with the Interagency Agreement among DOE, EPA and NYSDEC entered into pursuant to the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA). A description of the removal action taken, alternatives considered, regulatory interaction, and public participation activities associated with the short-term removal action are documented in the Action Memorandum for Operable Unit III Tritium Removal Action, dated May 9, 1997, which is available in the reading rooms identified in this notice.

The final remedial action will be determined through the CERCLA Operable Unit III Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) process and will be based on additional data collected, groundwater modeling, and evaluations of various remediation options, including those activities which comprise the Tritium Remediation Project. The CERCLA Record of Decision that completes this process is scheduled to be published in the fall of 1998. The potential environmental impacts associated with this CERCLA action will be reflected and accounted for in the environmental analysis contained in the EIS.

In addition to the activities associated with the cleanup of the contaminated groundwater plume, all fuel has been removed from the reactor and the pool and shipped off-site in preparation for removing all water from the fuel pool. Decontamination and dewatering of the storage pool is underway in order to eliminate the current source of the tritium to the groundwater beneath the HFBR. Operation of the groundwater plume pumping, treatment, and recharge system continues. The groundwater tritium plume has been characterized and modeled, and continues to be sampled and monitored. Removal of the water from the spent fuel pool is scheduled for completion by the end of 1997.

Purpose and Need for the Agency Action

The Department of Energy needs to make a decision regarding the future of the HFBR at BNL. This EIS will aid DOE in its decisionmaking process. In July

1997, the Department issued its "Action Plan for Improved Management of Brookhaven National Laboratory," which summarized the Department's planned process for deciding the future of the HFBR. The Action Plan states that the Secretary of Energy will decide the future of the HFBR and directs an appropriate environmental review process. That review process consists of this EIS on the HFBR, which will incorporate the results of the tritium remediation project being conducted in conjunction with the ongoing CERCLA process. The Secretary is scheduled to decide upon a preferred alternative for the future of the HFBR in early 1998 for inclusion in this EIS. As stated in the Action Plan, that decision will take into account several factors, including: public input from the local Long Island community; input from the HFBR scientific user community and the DOE Basic Energy Sciences Advisory Committee; and the value of the scientific information produced using the HFBR. The alternatives listed in this Notice for evaluation in the EIS reflect the full range of options available for the future of the HFBR. The results of the EIS scoping process will be considered in selecting the preferred alternative. The preferred alternative will be noted in the Draft EIS, but the EIS will analyze all reasonable alternatives, as required by NEPA.

The Conference Report accompanying Pub. L. 105-62, the Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act of 1998, directed that an EIS be prepared on the HFBR. The Report noted the conferees' expectation that the EIS include a "comprehensive survey of any environmental hazards that the tritium leak or other contamination associated with the HFBR pose to the drinking water and health of the people in the surrounding communities, and that it will provide a detailed plan for remediation." The EIS will provide this analysis, while concurrently proceeding with, the Tritium Remediation Project and applicable Interagency Agreement and CERCLA commitments. Long-term remediation plans are being prepared under the ongoing CERCLA program and will be discussed with the local community. Consistent with Congress' direction, the EIS will summarize this remediation plan and program, and assess the HFBR's potential for further contributing to groundwater contamination.

The Report also directed the Department to drain the spent fuel pool, meet the requirements outlined in the Suffolk County Sanitary Code Article 12, complete seismic upgrades, and repair and seal the floor drains. These

modifications and repairs, in addition to those indicated in (3) below, are needed to place the HFBR into a radiologically and industrially safe condition, regardless of which alternative is selected for the future of the HFBR, and do not result in any adverse environmental impacts. Accordingly, since these activities do not have an adverse impact and do not limit the choice of reasonable alternatives, DOE intends to proceed with these activities prior to completion of the EIS. These modifications include repairs needed to bring the HFBR into compliance with applicable Federal, State, and local laws and requirements, including the requirements of Suffolk County Sanitary Code Article 12, which is relevant to reducing risks and preventing future leaks from the facility to the groundwater. These four specific modifications and repairs include:

(1) Several floor joints and conduit penetrations in the floor of the HFBR would be repaired and sealed to ensure that there is no leakage path to groundwater from any accidental spill within the reactor confinement building. The potential for spills exists during both reactor operations and deactivation activities, when there would be a need to move large quantities of radioactive liquids into tanks and drums for storage, treatment or disposal.

(2) Several piping systems and sumps in the HFBR would be modified and repaired by replacing single-walled piping and sumps with double-walled components, or installing new components above the floor, thus meeting the requirements of Suffolk County Sanitary Code 12 for protection of groundwater. These systems would be used during operations and during deactivation activities to flush systems and reduce contamination.

(3) The drains from the 350-foot tall stack (handles exhaust gases from HFBR and other nearby facilities) would be repaired, along with the collection piping and sump, to convert them from a single-walled to a double-walled system. This would enhance the confinement integrity of the HFBR by providing a barrier against potential accidental release of radioactive materials to groundwater.

(4) The HFBR control room and operations level crane would be reinforced to protect radiological monitoring and control systems, as well as operations personnel, in the event of a design basis earthquake. The control room and crane are needed to ensure safe reactor operations or deactivation activities.

The Department is also evaluating a proposal to construct and install a stainless steel liner in the spent fuel pool during the preparation of the EIS. The installation of this impervious liner and appurtenant leak detection system would result in the pool containing a double-walled barrier to ensure that the storage pool would not be a source of groundwater contamination in the future. DOE considers the storage pool to be an essential component of the HFBR regardless of whether or not the reactor operates. It would be needed to store spent fuel during operations. During deactivation activities, it would be used to handle various highly radioactive reactor components which must be dismantled or cut apart in preparation for shipment offsite. Much of this work would be conducted within the storage pool. A usable pool may also be necessary for maintenance of the HFBR during an extended period of time in its present shutdown condition. As part of the CERCLA cleanup of Operable Unit III, the Department committed to construct and install the liner prior to any use of the pool. As a result, the spent fuel liner is included at this time as part of all alternatives, except No Action. DOE specifically solicits comments on whether the liner should be installed, along with the other modifications and repairs, prior to completion of this EIS. After hearing public comments on this issue, the Department may decide to include installation of the liner as part of all alternatives, including No Action.

Alternatives To Be Evaluated

While Pub. L. 105-62 prohibited the use of funds made available under that Act or any other act to restart the HFBR, this EIS will analyze the following reasonable alternatives for the future of the HFBR, as required by NEPA:

No Action Alternative

Under this alternative, the reactor would be maintained in the current shutdown and defueled condition for the indefinite future; the four modifications and repairs listed above would be performed. The Department regards this as a non-preferred alternative, because it does not resolve the future of the HFBR.

Resume Operation Alternative

The earliest date that the reactor could be restarted is October 1999, following completion of the NEPA process and all of the modifications and repairs described above (including installation of the spent fuel liner). This alternative includes two subalternatives:

a. Startup and operation of the reactor at a power level of 30 MW (the power level prior to the shutdown).

b. Startup and operation of the reactor at a power level of 30 MW with a planned increase in operation at a level of up to 60 MW.

Resume Operation and Enhance Facility Alternative

Under this alternative, the Department would restart the reactor for operation at a power level of up to 60 MW, and eventually replace the reactor vessel to extend the life of the reactor, and upgrade the reactor (e.g., add scientific instruments) to enhance the reactor's scientific research capabilities and increase the number of potential reactor users. Because of budget limitations, the Department regards this as a non-preferred alternative.

Permanent Shutdown Alternative

Under this alternative, the HFBR would be permanently shut down for eventual decontamination and decommissioning. Additional NEPA review would be necessary in the future for a proposal to decontaminate and decommission the reactor. This alternative would involve terminating the scientific research mission of the HFBR at BNL and placing the reactor in an industrially and radiologically safe condition for an extended period of time until a proposal were made to decontaminate and decommission the reactor. While an analysis of the full and complete decontamination and decommissioning is beyond the scope of this EIS, the potential environmental impacts associated with decontamination and decommissioning will be analyzed to the extent possible.

At this time, the Department of Energy has no preferred alternative. As noted above, the Secretary of Energy will designate a preferred alternative based on the results of the scoping process and other information in early 1998.

Preliminary Environmental Analysis

The following issues have been tentatively identified for analysis in the EIS. This list is neither intended to be all-inclusive nor is it a predetermination of potential environmental impacts. The list is presented to facilitate comment on the scope of the EIS. Additions to or deletions from this list may occur as a result of the public scoping process.

Health and Safety: potential public and occupational consequences from routine operation and credible accident scenarios.

Waste Generation/Pollution Prevention: types of wastes expected to

be generated and stored, pollution prevention opportunities, and the potential consequences to public safety and the environment.

Hazardous Materials: handling, storage, and use; waste management both present and future.

Background Radiation: cosmic, rock, soil, water, and air, and the potential addition of radiation.

Water Resources: surface and groundwater hydrology, use, and quality, and the potential for degradation.

Air Quality: meteorological conditions, ambient background, pollutant sources, and potential for degradation.

Earth Resources: physiography, topography, geology, and soil characteristics.

Land Use: plans, policies and controls.

Noise: ambient, sources, and sensitive receptors.

Ecological Resources: wetlands, aquatic, terrestrial, economically/recreationally important species, threatened and endangered species.

Socioeconomic: demography, economic base, labor pool, housing, transportation, utilities, public services/facilities, education, recreation, and cultural resources.

Natural Disasters: floods, hurricanes, tornadoes, and seismic events. Unavoidable Adverse Impacts.

Natural and Depletable Resources: requirements and conservation potential.

Environmental Justice: any potential disproportionately high and adverse impacts to minority and low income populations.

Alternatives other than those presented in this document may warrant examination, and new issues may be identified for evaluation.

Scoping Meetings

The purpose of this NOI is to encourage public involvement in the EIS process and to solicit public comments on the proposed scope and content of the EIS. DOE will hold public scoping meetings in the BNL area to solicit both oral and written comments from interested parties.

DOE will designate a facilitator for the scoping meetings. The facilitator may ask for clarification of statements to ensure that representatives of the DOE fully understand the comments and suggestions. The scoping meetings will not be conducted as evidentiary hearings nor will there be questioning of the commentators. At the opening of each meeting the facilitator will establish the order of speakers and will announce any

additional procedures necessary for conducting the meetings. To ensure that all persons wishing to make a presentation are given the opportunity, a five-minute limit may be enforced for each speaker, with the exception of public officials and representatives of groups, who will be allotted ten minutes each. DOE encourages those providing oral comments to also submit them in writing. Comment cards will also be available for those who prefer to submit their comments in written form.

DOE will make transcripts of the scoping meetings and project-related materials available for public review in the following reading rooms:

1. U.S. Department of Energy, Freedom of Information Public Reading Room, Forrestal Building, Room 1E-190, 1000 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20585, Telephone: (202) 586-3142.

2. Brookhaven National Laboratory Research Library, Bldg. 477A Brookhaven Ave., Upton, NY 11973, Telephone: (516) 344-3483.

3. Longwood Public Library, 800 Middle Country Rd., Middle Island, NY 11953, Telephone: (516) 924-6400.

4. Mastics-Moriches-Shirley Community Library, 301 William Floyd Parkway, Shirley, NY 11967, Telephone: (516) 399-1511.

Other environmental materials available at these locations or through the Suffolk County Interlibrary Loan System include BNL's 1977 Site-wide EIS, Annual Site Environmental Reports, and the CERCLA Administrative record for cleanup activities.

NEPA Process

The EIS for the HFBR will be prepared according to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, the Council on Environmental Quality's Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of NEPA (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508), and DOE's NEPA Regulations (10 CFR Part 1021).

The draft EIS is scheduled to be published in the summer of 1998. A 45-day comment period on the draft EIS is planned, and public hearings to receive comments will be held approximately three weeks after distribution of the draft EIS. Availability of the draft EIS, the dates of the public comment period, and information about the public meetings will be announced in the **Federal Register** and in the local news media when the draft EIS is distributed.

The final EIS, which will incorporate public comments received on the draft EIS, is expected in November 1998. No sooner than 30 days after a notice of availability of the final EIS is published

in the **Federal Register**, DOE will issue its Record of Decision and publish it in the **Federal Register**. The Record of Decision is expected to be issued in December 1998.

Signed in Washington, D.C., this 19th day of November, 1997.

Peter N. Brush,

Acting Assistant Secretary, Environment, Safety and Health

[FR Doc. 97-30821 Filed 11-21-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6450-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Idaho Operations Office; Notice of Intent To Solicit Applications for Financial Assistance Grants

AGENCY: Department of Energy.

ACTION: Notice of intent to solicit applications for financial assistance grants.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Department of Energy is announcing its intent to solicit applications for awards of financial assistance (i.e., grants) for state-of-the-art research that contributes to any of the following eight areas: reactor physics, reactor engineering, nuclear materials, radiological engineering, radioactive waste management, applied radiation science, nuclear safety and risk analysis, and innovative technologies for next generation reactors, space power and propulsion, or radiation sources.

DATES: The anticipated issuance date of Solicitation Number DE-PS07-98ID13604 is December 1, 1997. A copy of the solicitation in its full text may be obtained on the Internet at <http://www.inel.gov/doeid/proc-div.html> under Current Solicitations. The deadline for receipt of applications will be approximately 52 days after issuance of the solicitation.

ADDRESSES: Applications will be submitted to: Dallas L. Hoffer, Procurement Services Division, U.S. Department of Energy, Idaho Operations Office, 850 Energy Drive, Mail Stop 1221, Idaho Falls, Idaho 83401-1563.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dallas Hoffer, Contract Specialist at (208) 526-0014 or Brad Bauer, Contracting Officer at (208) 526-0090; U.S. Department of Energy, Idaho Operations Office, 850 Energy Drive, Mail Stop 1221, Idaho Falls, Idaho 83401-1563.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The solicitation will be issued pursuant to 10 CFR 600.6(b) Eligibility for awards under this Nuclear Engineering Education Research (NEER) Program

will be restricted to colleges and universities with nuclear engineering degree programs. The purpose of the NEER Program is to (1) support basic research in nuclear engineering; (2) assist in developing nuclear engineering students; and (3) contribute to strengthening the academic community's nuclear engineering infrastructure.

The statutory authority for the program is Pub. L. 95-91.

Issued in Idaho Falls November 17, 1997.

Michael L. Adams,

Acting Director, Procurement Services Division.

[FR Doc. 97-30796 Filed 11-21-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6450-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Commercialization Assistance for Awardees in the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) Program, Financial Assistance Solicitation No. DE-FC02-98ER12217

AGENCY: DOE, Chicago Operations Office.

ACTION: Notice inviting financial assistance applications.

SUMMARY: The Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Energy Research (OER) announces its interest in receiving applications to enhance the commercialization of SBIR recipients' technology. The Department may select more than one offeror for award under this solicitation. The selected offeror(s) may provide SBIR Awardees with individualized assistance in preparing business plans and developing presentation materials for raising capital or finding strategic partners to support the commercialization of their SBIR technology.

The Solicitation is available on the DOE Chicago Internet Home Page at <http://www.ch.doe.gov/business/ACQ.htm> with proposals due December 15, 1997. Any modifications to the solicitation will continue to be posted on the Internet. Please note that users are not alerted when the solicitation is issued or when modifications are posted. Prospective offeror(s) are therefore advised to check the above Internet address on a daily basis. The Solicitation is available on the CH Acquisition Page (see address below).

DATES AND ADDRESSES: The complete solicitation document is available on the Internet by accessing the DOE Chicago Internet Home Page at <http://www.ch.doe.gov/business/ACQ.htm> under the heading "Current Acquisition Activities" Solicitation No.

DE-FC02-98ER12217. Applications are due no later than 5:00 p.m. local time, on December 15, 1997. Awards are anticipated by January, 1998.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Completed applications referencing Solicitation No. DE-FC02-98ER12217 must be submitted to the U. S. Department of Energy, Chicago Operations Office, Attn: Peter R. Waldman, Bldg. 201, Rm. 3F-11, 9800 South Cass Avenue, Argonne, IL 60439-4899. As a result of this solicitation, DOE may award two(2) cooperative agreements. Available funding, irrespective of the number of offerors selected, is \$250,000.00 in FY 1998, and follow-on funding of approximately \$250,000.00 for FY99 and FY2000.

The solicitation invites applications which are limited to small business organizations. Eligibility to submit a proposal is restricted to small businesses. The SBIR program is a small business set-aside program. A small business award recipient will provide more credibility to SBIR participants. Past experience with previous commercialization assistance projects confirms that small businesses develop stronger and more productive business relationships with another company that has dealt with business problems similar to their own.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Peter R. Waldman, Acquisition and Assistance Group, Chicago Operations Office, 9800 South Cass Avenue, Argonne, Illinois 60439; Telephone No. (630) 252-2189, Fax No. (630) 252-5045, or by e-mail at peter.waldman@ch.doe.gov.

Issued in Chicago, Illinois on November 17, 1997.

James R. Bieschke,

Director, Operations Division.

[FR Doc. 97-30786 Filed 11-21-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6450-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. RP97-171-011]

ANR Pipeline Company; Notice Of Proposed Changes In FERC Gas Tariff

November 18, 1997.

Take notice that on November 13, 1997, ANR Pipeline Company (ANR) tendered for filing as part of its FERC Gas Tariff, Second Revised Volume No. 1, tariff sheets to be effective November 1, 1997.

ANR states that the purpose of this filing is to comply with the